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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 49% Partly sunny Sensex 77,017 | Nifty 24,032 | Gold 1,50,113 | Silver 2,45,700 | Dollar 95.04 | Euro 111.49 | GBP 128.92

PARK IN PERIL

Unclean pathways, neglected ponds, dead fish in its water bodies — Cubbon Park in disarray as staff gets busy with Census work

PAGE 5

WEAR YOUR ART

Met Gala guests decide to not play it safe this year, delivering custom works of art in honour of the 'Fashion is art' theme

PAGE 12

Report reveals growing fears over artificial intelligence as 67% of those surveyed express worry that they would become obsolete at workplaces — city's professionals explain how they are dealing with evolving tech

IT TAKES A LOT OF RUNNING, TO KEEP IN THE SAME PLACE

Response from companies will be critical in shaping how workers experience transition, say labour experts

| Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"Upskilling is a constant requirement in the IT industry, regardless of AI. However, AI has increased how quickly we need to update our skills, which can feel like pressure —Sanjana Rao, IT professional

As artificial intelligence becomes a core part of workplace systems, IT professionals say the technology is not only transforming how they work, but also intensifying anxiety around job security, relevance, and performance — with new data showing the scale of concern.

The ETS Human Progress Report 2026, based on a global survey of over 32,000 people, highlights rising unease among workers as AI reshapes jobs. India stands out, with 67% of employees fearing they could become obsolete — significantly higher than the global average of 58%. The findings reflect growing concern about whether current skills will remain relevant in a rapidly evolving workplace.

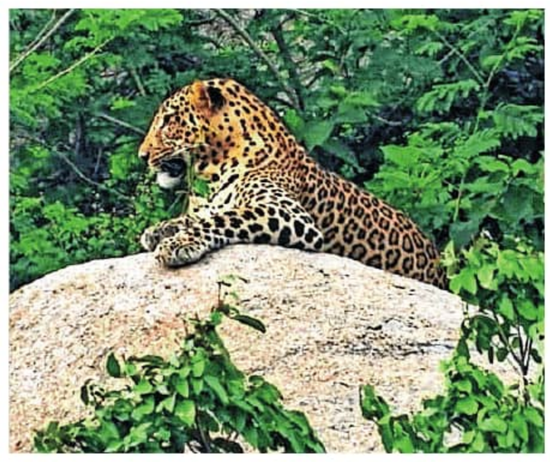
For many, the fear begins with the possibility of losing stable employment. "Job loss is the biggest worry. Even though career growth and staying relevant are important, they don't matter if there is no job security. People first need a stable job to think about growth," said Sanjana Rao, an IT worker.

The report suggests that this anxiety is not unfounded.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Cat is out of the bag

100 camera traps, 10 GSM-enabled cameras, 2 drones and more to help monitor, capture leopards



| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With increasing complaints of leopard sightings in Bengaluru's outskirts, the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) is gearing up to tackle the situation.

The Bengaluru Rural Division of KFD has shifted to a technology-driven approach and has procured GSM-enabled camera traps, thermal drones, and rescue operation gears for managing these complaints more efficiently.

A hundred camera traps, including 10 GSM-enabled cameras, two drones, five rescue operation gear sets, and two cage shifting vehicles have been brought in by the department.

"We are in the process of transforming our fleet to ensure rescue operations are more efficient and immediate. The 10 GSM-enabled camera traps will allow us to conduct monitoring of leopards' movements during rescue operations. The real-time data transmission through the cellular trail cameras will help capture operations," said Santosh Kumar G, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Rural Division.

The cameras will also help KFD in carrying out faster and more thorough assessments of the upcoming tiger census data.

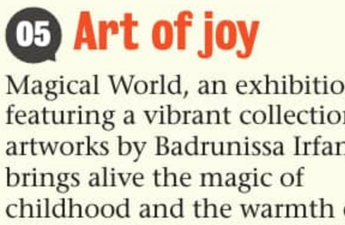
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Non-stop fun

Sunday Soul Sante is set to bring together 200+ curated stalls, offering a vibrant mix of artisanal food, indie fashion, homegrown brands and live music. The lineup also features live performances by Madboy Mink and Stig Fisher. Where: Ecoworld, Bengaluru; When: May 10, 11 am

02 Musical realm



Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj, a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 30, 7 pm

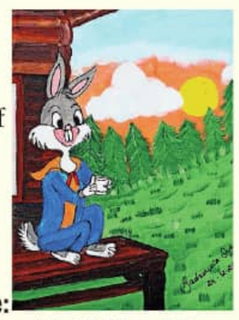
03 Familiar bonds

Atta Galatta is presenting Rise in Love, an intimate book preview evening by Archana and Asad, born from personal unraveling, shifting relationships and familiar patterns that often go unspoken. Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 9, 4 pm

04 Groove to the beat

SOCIAL is set to host She-nanigans, its women-only nights, across select outlets, bringing together music, drinks and its signature high-energy vibe in a no-filter setting. Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: May 6, 7 pm

05 Art of joy



Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30

Summer heat could be cooking up some trouble

Health experts caution that soaring temperatures may accelerate microbial growth, making fermented and soaked foods vulnerable to contamination in case of hygiene lapses

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Recent incidents of food borne illness, with 58 people falling sick after consuming dahi bara in Odisha and over 90 reportedly ill from idli vada in North Bengaluru, have raised fresh concerns over the safety of fermented foods during summer months. Health experts warn that rising temperatures create ideal conditions for rapid bacterial growth, particularly in foods made with curd, lentils and soaked ingredients, underscoring the need for greater caution in preparation and storage.

According to doctors, fermented and soaked foods such as dahi bara, idli and vada are more susceptible to contamination in hot weather because warm temperatures accelerate microbial growth. While beneficial lactic acid bacteria aid the fermentation process, harmful bacteria can also multiply alongside them if hygiene standards are poor or the food is improperly stored.

Doctors note that several other commonly consumed fermented or soaked foods can also become susceptible to contamination during summer if not prepared or stored properly. These include dosa and uttapam batter, appam batter, dhokla, yoghurt-based dishes left unrefrigerated, fermented rice preparations and fermented beverages prepared in unhygienic conditions. Experts stress that fermentation itself is not harmful, but the risk increases when such foods are left at unsafe temperatures or stored for prolonged periods.

Doctors warn that many fermented or soaked foods risk contamination in summer if not prepared or stored with proper care

Aditi Prasad Apte, Senior Clinical Nutritionist, Aster RV Hospital Bengaluru, noted that food spoils quickly in high temperatures, especially fermented items like dahi bara, and warned that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently flagged alarming risks of food borne diseases.

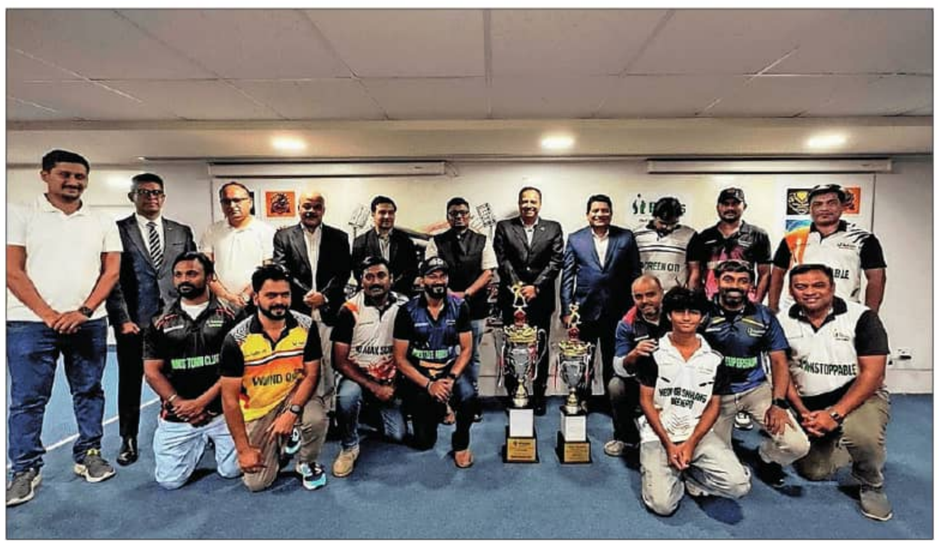
"The recent illness outbreaks caused by dahi bara consumption have raised doubts about the safety of fermented foods during hot summer months. Fermented foods benefit gut health but high temperatures create dangerous contamination risks when these foods are not properly prepared, stored or handled. Also, extreme heat may aid bacterial growth. Heat accelerates the growth of harmful bacteria such as E coli and Salmonella which thrive in foods that contain curd and lentils and soaked ingredients that are common in dishes like dahi bara," explained Apte.

She said that since dahi bara is made from soaked ingredients, maintaining proper temperature during preparation and storage is crucial to prevent spoilage and bacterial growth, with risks increasing if contaminated water is used at any stage.

"The risk increases because of improper refrigeration, contaminated water usage and unsanitary practices during food preparation. Not to forget the cure used for preparation, which can turn sour, altering the taste and palatability of the dish. Sour curd can also mess up digestion and gut health. FSSAI advises that fermented foods should be freshly prepared and consumed within a short time frame during hot weather," said Apte.

Common food safety mistakes underscore need to choose hygienic vendors, ensure use of clean water and check food quality before consumption, says clinical dietitian

Dr Niranjana Surendran, Consultant Clinical Dietitian, Rainbow Children's Hospital, highlighted common food safety mistakes such as leaving foods at room temperature too long, poor refrigeration or delayed cooling, cross contamination, reusing old batters, keeping foods uncovered and improper reheating. "One should choose clean, hygienic vendors with good turnover. Avoid raw toppings kept out in the open. Prefer sealed/boiled water. Check smell, taste, appearance before tasting and reheat food properly," said Dr Surendran.



Fortis Cricket League pre-launch Fortis Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, along with participating RWAs, at the pre-launch of the Fortis Cricket League, in the presence of Chief Guest Shri Diinesh Kumble, Entrepreneur and Photography Artisan. The initiative brings together 11 RWAs to promote fitness, community engagement and awareness on preventive healthcare.

SWR announces changes in train timings, stops

As per the latest updates by the South Western Railways, a one-minute experimental stoppage for Train No 12613/12614 Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Mysuru Wodeyar Daily Express will commence at Ramanagaram station from May 5. As per the schedule, the Mysuru–KSR Bengaluru Express will arrive at Ramanagaram station at 12.41 am and will depart at 12.42 am, the returning train will arrive at 4 pm and will depart at 4.02 pm. This is being done to improve connectivity for commuters in the Ramanagaram area. The SWR has revised timing for Train No 17391 KSR Bengaluru-Sindhanur Daily Express and it will be in effect from June 20. The scheduled train will depart from KSR Bengaluru at 11.40 pm, which was earlier 12.15 am. In view of this, two services will be operated on June 19. Train No 17391 will depart as per its existing schedule at 12.15 am. Another service will depart at 11.40 pm under a different Train number 17381 KSR Bengaluru-Sindhanur Express for one day only. Train No 17391 will regularly depart at 11.40 pm from June 20 onwards. — BMB

Peenya Flyover closure leaves commuters struggling

Hundreds of commuters travelling on Nelamangala road faced hardship Tuesday as traffic movement has been restricted for four days on Peenya Elevated Flyover, leading to severe congestion in the area. The Dr Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover will remain closed to traffic until 11 am on May 8. The restriction has been imposed to carry out repairs and load testing of 1,422 cables on the flyover. Commuters have complained that a route which usually takes 15–20 minutes now takes nearly one and a half hours via the service roads below. As a result, heavy traffic jams have been reported in and around Goraguntepalya, Jalahalli, Dasarahalli, 8th Mile, and nearby junctions, with congestion stretching as far as Madavara. The National Highways Authority has undertaken the repair and load testing work, following which traffic police from Peenya and Chikkabanavara have closed the flyover starting from Tuesday. Due to the closure, motorists on Tumakuru Road are expected to face significant traffic delays over the next three days. — BMB

Tourist visa misuse triggers exit order

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a "Leave India Notice" issued to a foreign national who was found to be running a restaurant in coastal Karnataka while holding only a tourist visa, reiterating that such visas do not permit commercial activity.

A single-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court dismissed a petition filed by a French national who challenged the notice. The petitioner operated a restaurant in Gokarna despite entering India on a tourist visa, which authorities said violated visa conditions.

The court observed that a tourist visa strictly serves travel and leisure purposes and does not allow the holder to engage in business or earn income. It stressed that foreign nationals must adhere to visa terms, and any breach, such as undertaking commercial activity, can invite action, including expulsion from the country.

Rejecting the petitioner's arguments, the court noted that a foreign national's right to stay in India remains subject to legal restrictions, and the government retains authority to regulate the presence of foreigners. It found no illegality in the immigration authorities' action, stating that officials issued the notice based on clear evidence of visa violations.

The court directed the petitioner to comply with the notice and leave India within the stipulated time, reinforcing that misuse of a tourist visa cannot be justified through legal challenges. **BMB**

Two-wheeler thieves, house burglars held

Two inter-state accused have been arrested for their involvement in a two-wheeler theft racket, leading to the recovery of 51 stolen vehicles and 501 fake registration certificate (RC) cards, with the total seizure valued at Rs 41.67 lakh.

Acting on a tip, police recovered 51 stolen two-wheelers between April 6 and April 14 and the arrests helped solve 27 theft cases across multiple police stations in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, Indiranagar police have arrested three individuals linked to a series of house burglaries across the city, who primarily targeted locked houses. The police have recovered 855 grams of gold jewellery and gold bars along with Rs 20,000 cash, with the total value estimated at Rs 1.15 crore. **BMB**

BM Education

TOP CLASS: Two schools from India were among the top 50 shortlisted for the USD one million Global Schools Prize 2026 — Katha Lab School in Delhi was named in the Arts and Culture category, Delhi Public School Bangalore North (DPSBN) in the Inclusive Education category

No delays, CBSE backs smooth OSM rollout

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has dismissed reports of glitches and delays in the evaluation of Class 12 answer sheets under its newly introduced On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, asserting that the process is running smoothly and on schedule.

CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj termed such claims "far from facts" and said the board is satisfied with the rollout, noting that the digital evaluation system has performed better than previous methods. He said evaluators have responded positively to the system, with many expressing appreciations for its efficiency and ease of use.

The board confirmed that the evaluation process is progressing as planned and students can expect their Class 12 results in the third week of May.

The OSM system, introduced for 2026 exams, improves transparency, accuracy and efficiency, marking a shift in CBSE's assessment for 46 lakh students across India and 26 countries. **BMB**

CBSE rolls out new parenting calendar

The Central Board of Secondary Education has launched its Parenting Calendar for the 2026–27 academic session, strengthening its push to deepen collaboration between schools and parents in line with the National Education Policy 2020.

Building on last year's success, the revised calendar introduces structured engagement frameworks, teacher-led activities and focused psychosocial support measures to improve students' emotional, social and academic development.

The board said the earlier edition saw strong stakeholder participation, reinforcing the need for a more integrated approach to student well-being. The updated calendar adds modules on inclusion and adapting to academic changes, along with expanded parenting workshops designed around age-appropriate developmental needs.

It aims to guide parents in actively engaging with their child's learning while strengthening the home-school partnership.

The launch event saw participation from principals, teachers, counsellors and parents, with the board urging all affiliated schools to adopt the framework for a supportive, inclusive learning environment. **BMB**

Government plans English medium in high schools

The Education Department is preparing to expand English medium instruction to government high schools from the 2026–27 academic year, especially in institutions that currently offer only Kannada medium. Officials have directed departments to collect detailed data on schools across districts and submit reports by May 8. As per the latest circular, Deputy Directors must review whether schools offer both Kannada and English mediums and identify institutions where English medium instruction can begin.

The move follows the rollout of bilingual education in 1,000 schools in 2019–20, where students who started Class 1 in English medium have now completed Class 7 in 2025–26 and need continuity into Class 8.

An official said, "The department aims to ensure these students can continue in English medium at the high school level. Where such facilities are unavailable, officials have been asked to propose starting English medium sections or upgrading upper primary schools to include Class 8 in English.

The initiative is also intended to strengthen the bilingual education model, particularly in rural areas where English medium access remains limited." **BMB**

City University plans new AI lab

Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University is planning to establish an Artificial Intelligence laboratory on its campus in the near future, Vice-Chancellor Prof Ramesh B said.

Speaking at the "Innovex-2.0" tech fest organised by the Department of Computer Science at the Jnanajyothi Auditorium in the Central College premises, he said the university will soon introduce diploma courses in Cyber Security and Bioinformatics, reflecting its focus on emerging technologies and industry-oriented education.

The event saw participation from students and faculty, with chief guest Varada Rajan Krishna and special guests Dr Gnanavel Mutharasu, Pavan Kumar and Dr B R Supreeth encouraging students to adopt a creative, exploratory approach to learning.

They stressed that education should go beyond degrees and urged students to use classrooms for hands-on training, innovation and startup preparation. **BMB**

UGC eases norms for deemed university status

The University Grants Commission has cleared the way for autonomous and constituent colleges under state universities to apply for deemed-to-be university status or function as off-campus centres of existing universities, subject to approval and de-notification by the respective state governments. The move, formalised through the 2026 amendment to the UGC's deemed university regulations, aims to expand institutional flexibility and strengthen specialised higher education by allowing eligible colleges to upgrade their academic standing.

The revised norms also ease accreditation requirements, replacing the earlier rule of a minimum NAAC score of 3.01 for three consecutive cycles with a broader condition of accreditation across three cycles, including the latest.

Additionally, institutions receiving 50 per cent or more government funding can continue under existing frameworks for a limited period, provided they demonstrate financial sustainability by generating at least half of their revenue independently. Changes widen deemed status access, encouraging colleges to scale academically. **BMB**

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LPG surge burns hotel menus

A sharp rise in commercial LPG prices has triggered a hike in food rates across several hotels and restaurants in the city, placing an added burden on customers and intensifying pressure on the hospitality sector. With the cost of commercial cylinders increasing by ₹1,308 in just 60 days and touching ₹3,152 in Bengaluru, many establishments have raised the prices of food items by ₹5 to ₹10 to offset losses. From coffee and snacks to full meals, the revised pricing has begun to pinch consumers, while hotel owners struggle to balance rising input costs and customer retention.

The impact is visible across segments, from darshinis and fast-food outlets to air-conditioned restaurants. Prices of coffee and tea have gone up by ₹3 to ₹10, idli now ranges between ₹20 and ₹40, while meals have become costlier by ₹10 to ₹20. Items such as masala dosa are priced at around ₹100, two pooris cost ₹100, puliyogare ₹80, and

two chapatis ₹70. Non-vegetarian dishes have also seen an increase, with chicken biryani in roadside outlets now priced between ₹130 and ₹150. Parcel charges have gone up by ₹10 per item. While premium hotels have passed on higher costs more aggressively, some mid-range establishments are holding back due to fears of losing customers.

Hotel owners say the sector is under stress after the West Asia crisis disrupted LPG supply, forcing purchases at black market rates up to ⊠5,000. Smaller eateries face losses and possible closure, while rising fuel, power, wage and rent costs make operations unsustainable. — BMB

Govt order delay continues, homebuyers left frustrated

Homebuyers await clarity as delayed legislators' meeting stalls long-pending housing law, raising concerns over ownership rights, governance gaps, and unresolved apartment management issues

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
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Home buyers and elected representatives have been awaiting the proposed meeting of MLAs to hold a detailed discussion on the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill. During the recent Assembly session in March 2026, there was a proposal to convene a meeting of all MLAs and stakeholders to discuss the draft Bill. However, the authorities concerned, particularly Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, have not taken any initiative to convene the meeting even after 40 days. Home buyers want the state government to enact the law as early as possible for the benefit of apartment owners.

"I am not happy with the delay in convening the much-needed meeting to discuss the draft of the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill. The proposal has been pending for more than three years. Home buyers have been facing numerous problems due to the delay in introducing the Bill. At present, home buyers have no rights over the land on which residential apartment complexes are built. Flat owners have been paying property tax. The government must protect the rights of apartment owners," said Sameera Bharadwaj, a resident of Prestige Lake Ridge Apartments, Uttarahalli.

Meanwhile, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar wrote a letter on May 4 to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, reminding him of his announcement made on March 26 regarding the proposed meeting of MLAs to discuss the draft Bill.

"I wrote to you on April 21 to convene a legislators' meeting to discuss the proposed Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill. However, I have not received a reply to date. I request you to convene the meeting to enable a detailed discussion on the draft," the letter stated.

Four decades of inaction criticised as leaders fail to schedule talks, leaving residents burdened with legal uncertainty, taxation duties, and powerless associations struggling with civic challenges

Stating that there has been a delay in introducing the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, Satish Mallya, President of the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF), said the government must take steps to organise the proposed meeting of legislators to discuss the draft Bill. "The delay in introducing the Bill is causing significant problems for home buyers. Existing apartment owners' associations are not in a position to take decisions on several issues, including waste management. I urge the authorities concerned to issue a Government Order (GO) on the proposed Bill," he said. "It is very unfortunate that the state government has yet to issue a Government Order (GO) pertaining to the proposed Act, as committed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during the Budget session. We request all elected representatives to question the government on behalf of home buyers," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum.

Bengaluru gets big economic blueprint

The Government of Karnataka on Tuesday signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with the ISEG Foundation to develop a comprehensive Economic Master Plan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR), in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

The plan aims to create a data-driven roadmap for Bengaluru's growth across the economy, infrastructure, liveability and sustainability, with targets set for 2032 and 2037.

Spanning over 8,000 sq km across Bengaluru Urban, Rural and South districts, the BMR has a population of 16 million and a GDP of $149 billion (FY25), contributing over 43% of Karnataka's GSDP. Bengaluru accounts for 42% of India's software exports and hosts over 875 Global Capability Centres, making it a key global technology hub. Despite strong annual growth of over 9%, the region faces challenges including congestion, rising real estate costs and talent pressures.

The blueprinting phase will take four to five months and include economic diagnostics, vision-setting, sectoral interventions and implementation strategies. The initiative follows the G-Hub framework under NITI Aayog. A high-level steering committee led by the Chief Secretary has been formed to oversee execution, with quarterly reviews by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. — BMB

KFD staff will be trained on use of new instruments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The division has also secured a thermal drone to help pinpoint the exact location of the big cat during capture and release operations. Thermal drone, according to Kumar, will also enhance the safety of on-ground teams by guiding them to the animal's hiding spot. Training frontline staff below the deputy range forest officer's post to use these technologies during capture and release operations is on the cards too.

"KFD staff will receive special training in how to deploy and use these instruments. Currently, the transfer process is ongoing. Training will begin immediately after the new staff is on board," added Kumar.

Apart from this, the division has also received eight fiber cages to reduce the chance of injuries to the captured animals. Two special vehicles to shift cages during the rescue operation have also been procured.

Leopards, during capture operations, are known to injure frontline staff. To minimise this injury, the division will now provide five safety gears to every on-ground team. These modified police gear will not only protect the staff from major injuries, but will also help them handle the crowd that gathers during such operations.

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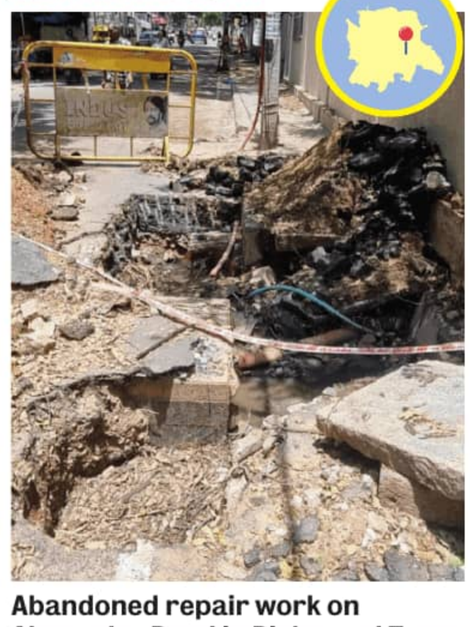
Trash troubles
Sampangi Rama Nagara

Rubbish has not been cleared for over a week near St Joseph's High School and around Kanteerava Stadium, reflecting a wider trend across Bengaluru.

Illegal displays
Kanakadasa Road

Illegal posters have been spotted on Kanakadasa Road near Majestic.

Hazardous stretch
Richmond Town



Abandoned repair work on Alexander Road in Richmond Town has made the stretch hazardous for both pedestrians and motorists.

Househelp, husband arrested for theft at employer's home

The CK Achukattu police have arrested a housemaid and her husband, who worked as a car driver, for allegedly stealing valuables from their employer's residence in Katriguppe. Police recovered 199 grams of gold jewellery, 730 grams of silver items, and Rs 13.20 lakh in cash, with the total value estimated at Rs 42.89 lakh.

According to police, a complaint was filed on April 17, 2026, by the homeowner. The couple had been hired around five months earlier and were staying in an outhouse behind the house. The theft reportedly took place between March 1 and March 15, when gold jewellery, silver items and cash kept in a cupboard went missing. Suspicion fell on the couple, leading to a case of theft. Acting on the complaint, police detained the accused on April 20 from the outhouse. During questioning, both confessed to the crime.

Based on information provided, police conducted recoveries between April 21 and April 24. In total, 199 grams of gold jewellery, 730 grams of silver items and Rs 13.20 lakh in cash were recovered. —BMB

Relatives steal gold worth ₹1.13 cr from minister's home

Shivajinagar police have arrested two persons, including a relative of the complainant, in connection with a theft case from Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan's house and recovered 759 grams of gold jewellery worth Rs 1.13 crore.

According to police, a complaint was filed on April 15, 2026, in which the minister's mother reported that about 1.3 kg of gold jewellery kept in a cupboard was found missing from her house. The complainant suspected the involvement of a relative, as several family members frequently visited her residence to assist her.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered and an investigation was launched. On April 16, police detained one of the accused near a college in Govindapura. Following his statement, the second accused was apprehended in Mathikere on April 19. Both were taken into police custody for five days each. Acting on information provided by the accused, police recovered 759 grams of gold jewellery on April 20. Both accused have been remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

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Cubbon Park's state tells story of neglect

Visitors lament park's declining upkeep as sewage inflow, dead fish and fallen branches worsen conditions, while census duty diversions cripple maintenance

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Recently, dead fish were discovered in park's water bodies, raising concerns over contamination

Complaints over deteriorating maintenance at Bengaluru's iconic Cubbon Park are intensifying, with visitors flagging issues ranging from unclean pathways and neglected ponds to the recent discovery of dead fish in park water bodies. Citizens say the already strained maintenance system has worsened further as several staff members have been diverted for census-related duties, leaving regular upkeep works severely affected.

Residents and members of park associations point out that concerns over inadequate funding were raised during a meeting with officials and the Deputy Chief Minister in October last year. At the time, horticulture department officials stated that Rs 8 crore is allocated annually for Cubbon Park, while the Deputy Chief Minister assured members he would examine the possibility of additional funding. However, citizens say no visible improvement has followed, and repeated concerns over the park's upkeep continue to go unaddressed.

Fresh concerns have emerged over the deteriorating ecological condition of water bodies inside Cubbon Park after dead fish were recently found floating in the Lotus Pond. Walkers and park users allege that contaminated wastewater discharged from surrounding underground infrastructure, coupled with inadequate maintenance and storm-related disruptions, may be affecting the park's water ecosystem.

S Umesh, advocate and President of the Cubbon Park Walkers Association, said, "Wastewater from nearby underground areas, including BMRCL infrastructure and possibly adjoining establishments, is being pumped into Cubbon Park, and much of it appears black, filthy and foul-smelling. There is an old rajakaluve entering from the Cubbon Road side through Queens Park into the bamboo grove and wetland, which currently absorbs some of this polluted inflow before it reaches the Lotus Pond. From there, the water flows through Bal Bhavan and onward through the park's drainage network. A vigilant walker had recently noticed fish gasping at the surface and urged authorities to inspect the pond. The two aerators in the Lotus Pond have also remained unused for a long time. Following the recent hailstorm, dead fish were found floating in the pond." He said with horticulture staff deployed for census duty, regular maintenance has suffered significantly and even fallen branches are yet to be cleared.

No field staff are available to clear debris after recent rains as census duty severely affects upkeep, says official from horticulture dept

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, founder of Heritage Beku, said, "While we were all very pleased to hear Deputy CM DK Shivakumar promise a large budget for Cubbon Park upkeep as well as to increase the very skeletal staffing at horticulture department, particularly Cubbon and Lalbagh, we are very concerned to see the way the staff have been deployed on the caste census and now on the current census survey, thereby putting huge pressure on park infrastructure and upkeep."

A horticulture department official said, "There was a sewage inflow near the RBI side, which was inspected by KSPCB and BWSSB teams, and the issue has now been resolved. However, all field staff are currently deployed for census duties, which is creating serious difficulties in carrying out regular maintenance work. We have requested exemption, but it has not been granted. The recent heavy rainfall also caused significant damage, including tree falls across the park, but there is no field staff available to clear the premises."

6 arrested for sale of narcotic substances

Six persons, including two from other states and four locals, have been arrested for allegedly selling banned narcotic substances in Yeshwanthpur and Nandini Layout areas of the city. The police have seized drugs and other items valued at Rs 10.05 crore, with an estimated market value of Rs 20.10 crore.

According to the police, the arrests were made based on credible information received from informants on different dates about illegal drug trafficking within the limits of Yeshwanthpur Police Station, where two separate cases were registered, and Nandini Layout Police Station, where one case was booked. Acting on the inputs, police registered cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and conducted raids at the identified locations.

During the operations, six accused were detained on different dates. The police seized 8.58 kg of MDMA, 5.7 kg of hydro ganja, four mobile phones used in the crime, and one car from the accused. All six accused were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. Police said efforts are ongoing to trace the suppliers, and further investigation is in progress. —BMB

692 lost mobile phones recovered in April

In a major recovery drive, the North-East Division police in Bengaluru have successfully traced and recovered 692 stolen and lost mobile phones during April 2026, with a total estimated value of Rs 1.75 crore.

The operation was carried out across 11 police station limits using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal.

Among the stations, Sampigehalli police recovered the highest number of phones at 107, followed by Vidyaranyapura (86), Bagaluru (85) and Yelahanka (83). Other recoveries included Yelahanka New Town (76), Kothanur (70), Kodigehalli (66), and Amruthahalli (66). In the Devanahalli sub-division, Chikkajala police recovered 34 phones, Devanahalli police recovered 12 and KIA police station recovered seven devices. —BMB

Drugs worth over ₹13 crore seized at KIA

In three separate seizures, Bengaluru Customs intercepted five passengers arriving from Bangkok at Kempegowda International Airport.

Officials seized 3.18 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 1.1 crore. From two other accused, they recovered 26.62 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 9.31 crore, and another 7.86 kg valued at Rs 2.75 crore.

Officials took to X on May 4 and said the accused have been arrested under the NDPS Act. The drugs were found concealed in baggage at Terminal 2 during routine checks. —BMB

Vice-Chancellor's PhD row puts question-marks over credibility

Eight-year gap between PhD certificate date and signature sparks concerns over credibility and procedural lapses in academic documentation of senior official

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Vice-Chancellors are expected to issue Doctor of Philosophy certificates only after proper verification and scrutiny. But what if a Vice-Chancellor himself holds a PhD certificate that appears questionable? KC Veeranna, Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar, continues to draw attention for the wrong reasons.

Documents accessed by Bangalore Mirror raise doubts over the PhD certificate held by Veeranna from Doctor Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra (formerly Agra University). The certificate reportedly contains spelling errors and conflicting dates. It mentions the year 2003 with a printed date of December 31, 2003, while the Vice-Chancellor's signature on the certificate is dated June 29, 2011. This gap of eight years raises questions about the authenticity and timeline of the document.

Despite these concerns, higher authorities appear aware but have taken no action. Staff members of KVAFSU have submitted complaints along with documents, but no response has followed. Dr HK Muniyalleppa wrote to the Governor of Karnataka, also the Chancellor of KVAFSU, on March 27, 2023, seeking action against alleged irregular promotions and appointments of Dr KC Veeranna and restoration of administrative and financial discipline.

According to documents, Veeranna was appointed as an instructor on March 3, 1992 under UAS, Dharwad, and served at Veterinary College, Bidar until October 23, 1998. He was promoted to Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) on January 14, 2000 under CAS 1996. As per norms, he should have been promoted to Assistant Professor (Selection Grade) after January 14, 2005. However, he was instead promoted as Associate Professor on March 13, 2003.

"He was promoted as Professor through direct recruitment on December 31, 2011. Later, he was again promoted to the same post in 2015 with retrospective effect from October 24, 2010. Promotion to the same cadre post in the same department is highly unusual

– Dr HK Muniyellappa

Eligibility for Associate Professor requires a minimum of five years in senior scale and a PhD degree. Veeranna had completed only three years of service at that stage. This raises concerns about violation of CAS guidelines.

"To get promoted as Associate Professor, one needs to possess a PhD degree as per CAS 1996. Dr KC Veeranna obtained the Ph D degree in 2011 through distance mode in agricultural extension. There is ambiguity in the completion date. Service records mention March 12, 2003, while the certificate shows December 31, 2003 and June 29, 2011," said Dr HK Muniyellappa.

He further pointed out that agricultural extension had no relevance to veterinary and animal husbandry extension education at that time. "Agricultural extension was recognised as an allied subject only from June 30, 2010. Therefore, the required qualification was not valid when he was promoted. The promotion to Associate Professor was not in accordance with UGC/CAS regulations," he said.

Muniyellappa also questioned Veeranna's promotion as Professor. "He was promoted as Professor through direct recruitment on December 31, 2011. Later, he was again promoted to the same post in 2015 with retrospective effect from October 24, 2010. Promotion to the same cadre post in the same department is highly unusual," he said.

UGC guidelines state that a professor appointed through direct recruitment is not eligible for promotion under CAS. Responding to the allegations, Dr KC Veeranna said he obtained his PhD from a recognised university without violating norms. "I did not have time to collect the certificate in 2003. I received it in 2011," he said. On the discrepancy in dates, he added that anyone with doubts should approach the concerned university for clarification.

Missing letters

Acknowledgement copies and reply from Special Secretary to honourable Governor indicate Governor's Office is not immune to missing documents. Staff acknowledged receiving Dr HK Muniyellappa's letter (No. 2542, March 28, 2023). When he sought an action taken report on November 25, 2025, Special Secretary replied on January 9, 2026 that letters No. 2542 (March 28, 2023) and No. 8674 (September 25, 2024) were not found in records. He advised Dr Muniyellappa to resubmit copies to the concerned officer at Lok Bhavan. Delay in response and missing records raise questions over handling of complaints within Governor's Office system and administrative accountability processes overall.

Poll effect sends K'taka liquor sales soaring

Elections in neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Kerala appear to have boosted liquor sales in Karnataka, with April 2026 recording the highest monthly sales in 13 years. With prohibition in force in poll-bound states, border districts in Karnataka saw a surge in demand, pushing total liquor sales to a record 118.56 lakh boxes. This includes 68.17 lakh boxes of Indian Made Liquor (IML) such as whisky, brandy, rum and gin, and 50.39 lakh boxes of beer, marking the highest monthly figure since 2013. IML sales rose by 18.68 per cent from 57.44 lakh boxes in April 2025 to 68.17 lakh boxes this year, while beer sales increased by 21.13 per cent from 41.60 lakh boxes to 50.39 lakh boxes. Officials attributed the spike to elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, along with bypolls in Davanagere South and Bagalkot in Karnataka. The excise department collected ₹3,688 crore in April 2026, a 27 per cent jump from ₹2,904 crore in April 2025, surpassing previous records. — BMB

State orders safety audit of buildings health

The Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department has directed a statewide inspection of old and potentially dilapidated government health buildings, including Sub-Centres, PHCs, CHCs, taluk hospitals, and district hospitals, following concerns over structural safety during heavy rains and strong winds. In a circular issued by the Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare Services on May 5, 2026, district and taluk health officers, along with nodal officials, have been instructed to jointly inspect all facilities and submit detailed reports. Officials have been asked to immediately shift patients from unsafe wards or buildings to safer locations and ensure engineering teams assess deteriorating structures for necessary repairs. Completely unoccupied and unsafe buildings must be inspected. District nodal officers must visit their respective districts, hold review meetings, and submit comprehensive reports within 15 days. Officials will be held responsible for any mishaps arising from negligence. — BMB

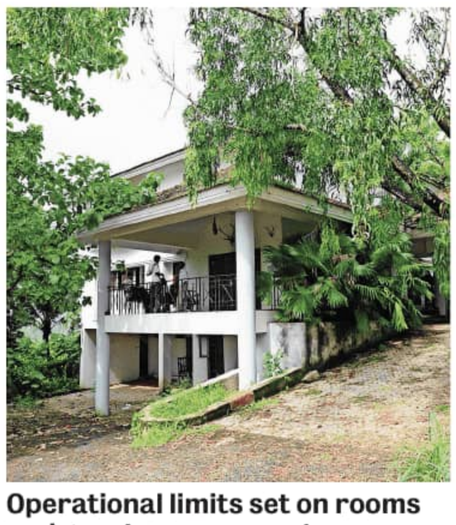
Homestays under scanner as state enforces tough rules

Mandatory police verification, CCTV, guest records, and emergency contacts introduced to enhance tourist safety and ensure better oversight of homestay operations

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

In the wake of recent crime incidents reported from Koppal and Kodagu districts, the State government has introduced stringent guidelines to regulate homestays and bed-and-breakfast establishments across the state. The move aims to enhance tourist safety, improve service quality, and bring greater accountability to private accommodation providers. Authorities have directed coordinated action across departments, with district-level enforcement being strengthened to monitor compliance and curb illegal operations.

Under the new rules, registration with the tourism department has been made mandatory for all homestays, and licences must be displayed at entrances. A public database of registered homestays will be available online. "To improve safety, it is now compulsory for all units to display key emergency contact numbers, including 112, 1363, 181 and 1098, along with details of nearby hospitals, district administration offices and disaster management authorities. Staff must undergo background verification through local police, and records must be maintained. Homestays will also be integrated with the police e-beat system to ensure regular inspections," said an official.



Operational limits set on rooms and guests per property

The guidelines prescribe operational limits, allowing a minimum of one and a maximum of six rooms, with a cap of 12 guests per property. Dormitory-style accommodation is not permitted. CCTV surveillance, proper maintenance of guest records, and mandatory reporting of foreign tourists are among key compliance requirements. District administrations will form special inspection teams under the Deputy Commissioner to conduct surprise checks, and strict action will be taken against unauthorised homestays.

The government has also emphasised safety of women and children, directing that staff be trained on laws related to prevention of sexual harassment and child protection. In a significant shift, the policy allows bed-and-breakfast establishments where owners do not reside on the premises and operations are managed by caretakers or agents. These units must obtain approvals from multiple departments and will be treated as commercial establishments, without concessions on electricity and water tariffs.

Officials said the revised framework will bring previously unregulated units into the legal fold, improving oversight and transparency, while unregistered homestays will be treated as illegal and face strict action.

T20 cricket has evolved over the last two or three years, especially in the IPL. You can see patterns in how teams are winning, and recently, teams that win the Power Play often go on to win the game
—KL Rahul, Delhi Capitals player

BangaloreMirror | 7
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No matter the hurdles, they go for gold

Find out how these teen sportspersons manage to juggle studies and intense training with sole aim of winning medals for country and state

KAUSHIK JN

Vasudha Zora
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

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Teenagers Gunesh, Ullas and Azaban, from the Dwarf category, have been redefining field practices with their storming efficiency and discipline. Pushing through structural gaps and battling personal circumstances with financial limitations, the boys are motivated to make the best of resources given to them. Competing in the F40 category across events like shotput, javelin and discus, the trio trains out of the Sports Authority of India and have already acquired a sponsor, Lifeline Chicken.

Coach Rahul Balakrishnan has been central to all three stories. In search for talent, the coach would find himself scouting for potential in overlooked spaces. During his many such searches, he saw Ullas selling flowers with his mother. "I found Azaban working for his father in a shop and Gunesh's father is disabled and he wanted his son to represent, so he came to me," said Balakrishnan. He shares that the players are not just self-aware of their circumstances, they are aligned with their goal and move towards it full throttle.

From selling flowers on the roadside to standing on national podiums, Ullas Gowda, the youngest of the three competes in shot put, discus and javelin in the F40 category. The Sri Rajeshwari Vidyashala student secured a gold in all three disciplines at the Karnataka State Junior Athletics Meet 2024 held in Mysuru, followed by a gold in discus, silver in shot put and bronze in javelin at the National Junior Championship held in Bengaluru the same year. In 2025, he won another round of gold medals at the Sub Junior National Para Games in Gwalior. The championship also served as an official selection trial for the Asian Youth Para Games. "I train for two hours every day after school and I am greatly influenced by para athlete Ravi Rangoli, and aim to win a gold for my nation at the Olympics," said Ullas.

Competing in the same F40 category across shot put, discus and javelin, Azaban Ahmed's journey reflects steady consistency across competitions. His performances have placed him at the top, attracting challenging competitions at both state and national levels. He secured silver in shot put, javelin and discus at the Karnataka Junior Championship in 2024, followed by a silver medal in all three disciplines at the National Junior Championship held in Bengaluru and won a bronze medal in discus at the National Junior Championship in Gwalior. "Every win empowers me, it makes me realise what more I can do. My circumstances have progressed in a good way; they make me who I am. This attitude is going to get me many medals at the Paralympics. My practice and school routine keeps me packed and I focus a great deal on making sure I get eggs every day and chicken thrice a week to sustain through extensive training," said Azaban.

Gunesh's father has been his biggest guiding force, while his coach forges him into greatness every day. His journey is still in its early stages but carries a strong emotional underpinning. He secured a bronze medal in shot put at the Karnataka Junior Championship in 2025 followed by another bronze medal at the National Junior Championship in 2025. On his practice routine, he says, "I go to SAI from 5 pm to 7 pm, my coach takes care of equipment and training needs. I am highly focused and want to win a gold in the Olympics, especially the one that would happen in India. I share my dream with my father and I am doing everything in my power to make this a reality," said Gunesh.

Coach Rahul Balakrishnan, who discovers talents from unlikeliest of places, shares that many are still struggling and upcoming sportspersons need authorities to streamline basic infrastructure to keep going

The trio splits their time between Sports Authority of India facilities and Lifeline Sports Academy, who have been one of the primary supporters backing their journey and provide them funds on a regular basis to support their preparation. Karnataka Para Athletics Association supports them for events.

Despite training at national facilities, athletes largely operate on their own resources, which is the story of many who go unnoticed in the ocean of talent in the state. For most there are no dedicated funding pipelines for their daily needs or a promise of its consistency. The coach shared that many are still struggling to make a name; they train morning and evening often returning to homes where survival takes priority over sport. He said that such players need constant representation and belief in the system to pump more such hidden talent residing in villages, or on the streets. "The authorities responsible should streamline basic infrastructure, such as diet, recovery, training, equipment and scholarships, which should not just be an option for star athletes but should cover upcoming talent as well," he said.

Akael, Noor squeeze DC, help Chennai clinch the game

A fine show by Chennai Super Kings (CSK) spinners helped the Men in Yellow restrict Delhi Capitals (DC) to 155/7, despite fighting knocks from Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

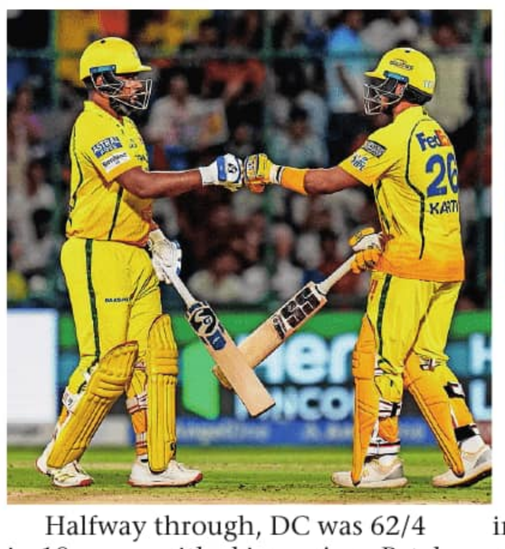
DC was unable to defend 156 runs and avoid a fourth home defeat in a row as Sanju Samson took the game away from the very beginning of the chase.

After opting to bat first, the opening pair of Pathum Nissanka and KL Rahul made a measured start, with Nissanka starting off the innings by smashing Akael Hosein for two fours in the first over.

In the fourth over, Nissanka looked to dominate Mukesh Chaudhary, smashing him for a four in the sweeper cover and then a six over the fine leg region. But a fine catch by Dewald Brevis at mid-on ended his stay at 15-ball 19, with three fours and a six. DC was 29/1 in four overs.

DC's power play ended with a massive jolt as KL, while trying to go inside out, handed an easy catch to CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and gave Akael Hosein his first wicket. DC was 36/2 in 5.1 overs. DC ended their powerplay at a score of 37/2, with Nitish Rana and Karun Nair tasked with rebuilding.

DC moved to 50-run mark in 7.2 overs. Noor Ahmed, however, succeeded in removing Karun, removing him as the batter swept the ball into the hands of Gurjapneet Singh for a run-a-ball 13. DC was 52/3 in eight overs.



Chennai Super Kings' Sanju Samson, left, and Kartik Sharma during the IPL match; Chennai Super Kings' Noor Ahmad celebrates with teammates after dismissing Delhi Capitals' Nitish Rana

Halfway through, DC was 62/4 in 10 overs, with skipper Axar Patel (2*) and Tristan Stubbs (1*). In the ninth over, DC lost Nitish for a 13-ball 15 to Noor, reducing DC to 61/4 in 9.3 overs.

Gurjapneet ended the 11th over, removing skipper Axar Patel for two in six balls, continuing his woeful season with the bat. DC was 69/5 in 11 overs.

At 15 overs, DC was 97/5, with Stubbs (28*) and Rizvi (8*) unbeaten. In next over, came 12 runs against Mukesh, bringing up the 100-run mark in 15.2 overs.

Today's battle
Sunrisers Hyderabad
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Two sixes by Sameer in the 18th over by Kamboj helped relieve pressure as duo reached a half-century mark in 39 balls. However, in the penultimate over by Anshul Kamboj, the 65-run stand ended with Stubbs dismissed for 38 in 31 balls, with a four and two sixes. DC was 134/6 in 18.5 overs.

Ashutosh Sharma unleashed a small cameo of 14 in five balls, with two sixes, before perishing to a run-out from Gaikwad. However, a final ball six from Sameer (40* in 24 balls, with four boundaries), taking DC past 150-run mark. Akeal Hosein (1/19 in four overs) and Noor Ahmed (3/22 in two overs) were the pick of the bowlers for DC. —ANI

77% of workers are upskilling, 86% believe in continuous learning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In India, 86% of workers say they have already experienced major changes in their roles or workplaces over the past year. At the same time, 98% report barriers to career growth, including difficulty keeping up with new technologies and skill demands. A significant gap also exists between how important AI skills are perceived to be and workers' confidence in actually possessing them.

This pressure is reflected in everyday work culture. "Upskilling is a constant requirement in the IT industry, regardless of AI. However, AI has increased how quickly we need to update our skills, which can feel like pressure," Rao said.

AI's growing capabilities have also triggered a shift in how employees perceive their own value. "AI helps in almost all kinds of tasks. While it frees up time for more creative work, it also makes me feel easily replaceable. It becomes a never-ending loop of trying to upskill," Rao explained. Vaishnavi AK, another IT professional, however, struck a more measured note. "While AI improves efficiency, it cannot replace my role," she said.

Companies, employees say, are encouraging the adoption of AI tools, though messaging varies. "Employees are actively encouraged to use AI tools. It has become an integral part of daily workflows, but there is also an expectation to critically evaluate AI-generated output," Rao said. Vaishnavi noted that her company has communicated that AI is "not intended to replace employees", but that workers are expected to adapt and use it to improve efficiency. "We've been encouraged to explore how AI tools and prompts can improve our processes," she said.

Despite being positioned as an assistive tool, workers believe AI could still reshape roles. "It appears to be introduced to assist employees and maximise efficiency, although some roles might be affected," Vaishnavi said.

At the same time, increased efficiency has brought heightened expectations. "Since AI makes work faster, people are expected to finish tasks more quickly. This increases pressure and sometimes reduces learning time," Rao said. Vaishnavi echoed this sentiment, noting that "faster AI tools come with higher performance expectations, though human judgement remains critical".

Globally, uncertainty remains high. The report finds that 69% of workers are unclear about their future job roles, while nearly half — 49% — feel unprepared for what lies ahead. Yet, adaptation is underway: 77% of workers are actively upskilling, and 86% believe continuous learning is essential to staying employable.

Mental health experts say these shifts are beginning to take a psychological toll. Dr Sachin Baliga, Consultant Psychiatrist at Fortis Hospital, explained that many professionals closely tie their identity to their work. "When automation creates fear of job loss, it can disturb this sense of identity. People may start questioning their value, skills, and future relevance," he said, adding that such uncertainty can lead to anxiety and reduced confidence.

He also warned of longer-term consequences. "Ongoing stress about job security and constantly adapting to new technologies can lead to burnout, mental fatigue, and in some cases even depression. Burnout is not just tiredness — it includes emotional exhaustion, reduced performance, and detachment from work," he noted.

Labour experts say the response from companies will be critical in shaping how workers experience this transition, urging corporates to place greater emphasis on human well-being alongside technological advancement. One expert said, "The conversation cannot be only about efficiency and output. Organisations must recognise that behind every role is a person navigating uncertainty. A humane approach to AI adoption means giving employees clarity, time to adapt, and a sense of security."

Experts also highlight the importance of trust and transparency. He noted, "Employees are more willing to embrace AI when they feel included in the transition. Open communication about how roles will evolve — and what support will be provided — can reduce fear and build confidence."

According to Dr Baliga, many workers are turning to upskilling as a way to regain a sense of control. While this can be helpful, he cautioned that it should not become a relentless cycle. "Learning new skills can reduce fear, but if it turns into constant pressure to keep up, it can increase stress instead."

He also pointed to unhealthy coping patterns emerging among professionals, including overworking, lack of rest, excessive screen time, and social withdrawal — behaviours that may offer short-term relief but worsen stress over time.

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I Raju S/O, Nataraja R/o No 35 Pragayhi Spandana Layout Gunduru Bangalore560049 have changed my name to Selvaraj N.

I, Rohit Vinod Fernandes S/O, Vincent Francis Fernandes R/o No 4 1 10a, Rohit Villa, Near Ambalpady Post Office, Udupi, Karnataka-576103 have changed my name to Rohit David Vinod Fernandes for all purposes

I, SANJAYKUMAR TRIPATHI, Residing at No A1116, K Block, GM Infinite, Electronic City Phase 2, Tirupalya Village, Bommasandra, Bangalore-560099, Have changed our minor daughter name from AARADHYA SANJAYKUMAR TRIPATHI to, AARADHYA TRIPATHI vide affidavit dated 01/05/2026 sworn before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore

I, Vani Acharya W/o Nischinth D Sadhak, R/o G -Riveria, T1, 4th floor th cross, 2nd stage, NGEF LAYOUT, Nagarbhavi, 560072 have changed my name to Vani Nischinth

I, SOMASHEKHAR, R/a. Saraswathinagar, Near KEB Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru-62. I, have Changed my name to SOMANNA H, Vide affidavit, dated 04/05/2026 Sworn before Notary: M.K.Devaki. Bangalore

I, MUNAZZA MEHEK, R/a.15/1, 11th A Cross, Padarayanapura Bengaluru-26 I, have Changed my name to MUNNAZA MEHAK Vide affidavit dated 04/05/2026 Sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki. Bangalore

I, Srilakshmi H R W/O, Raghavendra P S R/o No 302, Kundan Paradise 4th Main , Hanumagiri Layout Ag S Layout,Subramanyapura Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Sreelakshmi H R for all purposes.

I, Ruchika Chindalia W/O, Abhishek Pugalia R/o Sai Kalyan Ultima B 605 6th Floor Rachenahalli Main Road, Near Manyata Techpark Back Gate No 5 Thanisandra Banglore-560077 have changed my name to Ruchika Pugalia for all purposes.

I, AJIT KUMAR RUDRANAND JHA residing at No. B3-184 SNN Raj Etternia, Silver County Road, Sai Meadows Haralur, Kudlu, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to AJIT RUDRANAND JHA vide affidavit: dated: 5/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Gopika Ravindra hegadal W/o Ravindra Hegadal R/o 33 Nisarga Suncity layout singanayakanahalli Yelahanka B'lore-560064 have changed my name to Gopika c muttagi

I, VIBHA CHETAN (Old Name), W/o Chetan Gowdanahalli Shanth residing at No.73, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004, have changed my name to VIBHA VISHWANATH (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 4/5/2026 before Notary V.Rajashekara Bangalore.

I, Mallesh Mallegowda Ramesh S/o Ramesh, aged 42 years, residing at #20, Shri Sai Nilaya, 3rd B Cross, Gururaja Layout, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore – 560037, Karnataka, declare that "Mallesh", "Mallesh M R", and my full name refer to the same person as per affidavit dated 28-04-2026.

I Amrita Ranjan R/o H.No.179,Shubh yoga Layout, Anagalapura,Kada Agrahara main Road,Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Amrita Swaroop.

I, Ashok Babu D N, S/o Nagaraj Reddy B, R/at No.402, Vijay Nivas, Apartment, Near Passion Elite Apartment, Doddathoguru, Bengaluru-560100, here by declare that NAGARAJ REDDY and NAGARAJA, both the names belongs to my father only, vide affidavit dt: 04.05.2026, before notary V. Rangaraju, B.lore.

I, PRALHAD MUTALIK-DESHPANDE, Residing at No. 02, 17th Main Rd, AGS Layout, Arehalli, Bangalore – 560061, have changed my name to PRALHAD SUBHAS MUTALIK DESHPANDE, vide affidavit dated 24/04/2026 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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GALLERIA

ಗಿಡಮೂಲಿಕೆ ಔಷಧಿ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ತರಬೇತಿ

ಗಿಡಮೂಲಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದ ಔಷಧಿ ತಯಾರಿಕ ವಿಧಾನದ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ನುರಿತ ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ / ನಾಟಿ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು 18–28 ವರ್ಷದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ :
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ ವೈದ್ಯ, ಗಿಡ ಮೂಲಿಕೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಮತ್ತು ತರಬೇತಿ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ(ರಿ), 206, 23ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, 6ನೇಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಜಯನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–70.

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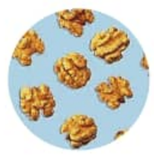
CHARDHAM YATRA 15 DAYS: MAY: 27, 31 JUNE: 13, 20
AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 10 DAYS
MAY: 19 JUNE 02
KASHI GAYA PRAYAG/HARIDWAR* 07/12* DAYS
MAY: 7, 15*, 17, 25, 25* JUNE 01, 15, 24*
KASHI/BADRINATH KEDARNATH 21/14* DAYS
JUNE: 1,08*15, 24*, 24
AMARNATH VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 14/8* DAYS
JUNE: 27, 30* JULY: 2, 4, 4, 8, 10
LEH LADAKH 8/6* DAYS: JUNE: 20, 22 JULY 06,08*

HEALTH TIP: Pomegranate contains specific ingredients like polyphenols and anthocyanins that are good for the skin



Walnuts contain polyphenols, vitamin E, and omega-3s, all of which help fight against inflammation

BangaloreMirror | 9
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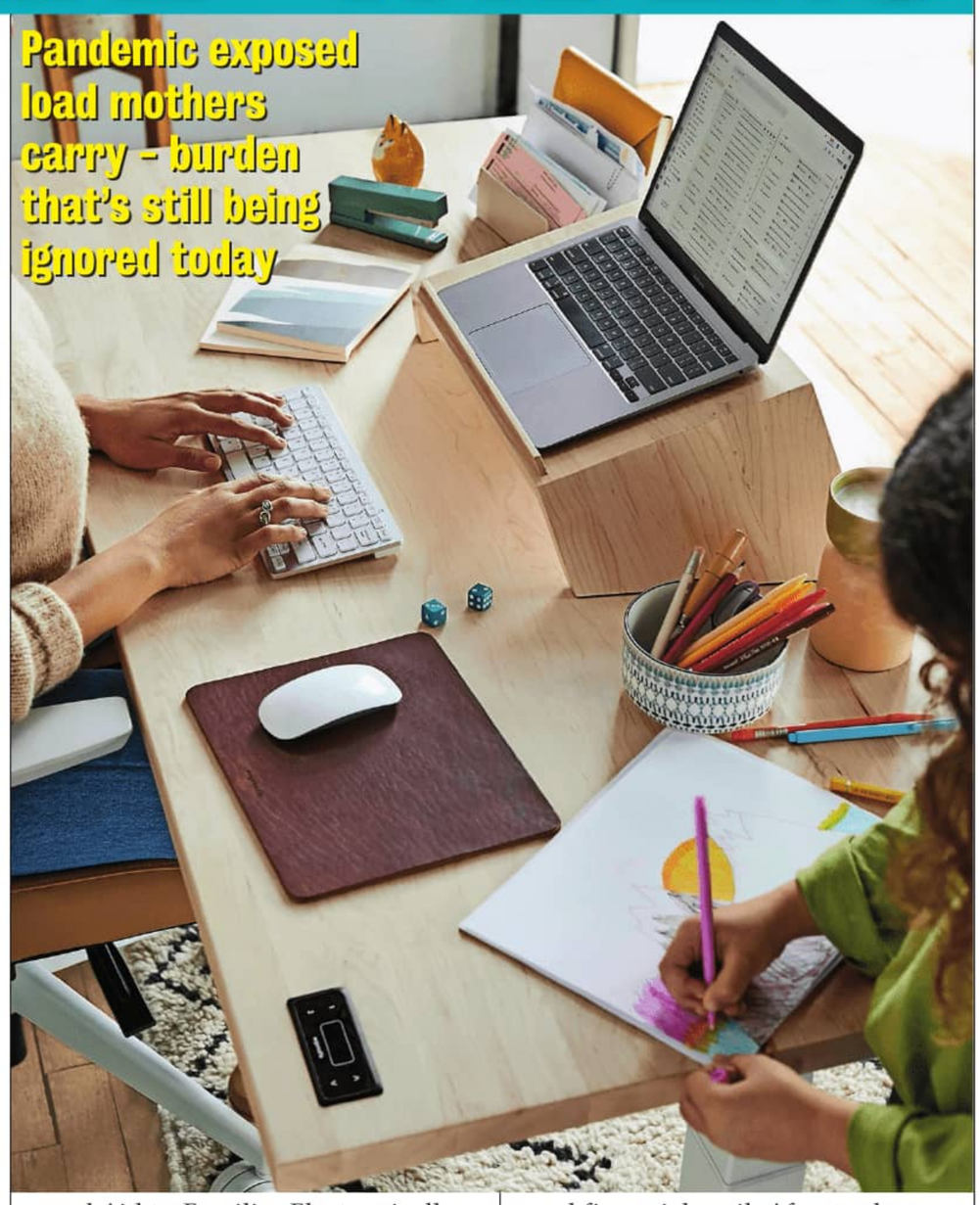
THE GAP WIDENS



Pandemic exposed load mothers carry – burden that's still being ignored today

The Covid pandemic exacerbated and brought into focus the ongoing disproportionate burden on mothers when it comes to household logistics, child care and financial inequity. It also revealed just how deeply embedded and structurally reinforced that burden is.

When labour that had previously been a shared social responsibility shifted into individual households, the load fell mainly to women. But perhaps even more important is that the true impact of this burden was invisible - even to women themselves.

Data over three years, from 2020 to 2023 - the height of the pandemic - laid bare the reality of a poorly scaffolded social structure. What had been seen as informal or "natural" for women to take on was, in fact, an uneven distribution of labour and responsibility.

That reality has clear economic effects. Canadian women earn approximately 69 per cent of the average salary of men. Mothers' salaries also decrease by 49 per cent in the year after a child is born and 34 per cent 10 years later, while fathers' salaries are largely unaffected.

Studying families during Covid-19

Even before the pandemic, women were often responsible for the majority of housework and child care.

This was the status quo when Covid-19 arrived, as social isolation regulations increased family mental-health concerns while simultaneously decreasing social support.

Between January 2021 and August 2023, qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews and focus groups that included 113 people - social work students and professionals from King's University College at Western University's School of Social Work and the local school board - to examine the impact of Covid on families who participated in the first three years of our Support and Aid to Families Electronically (SAFE) program.

Participants were asked how families were impacted during Covid-19 and the associated restrictions. Our social systems position women, particularly mothers, as the primary load-bearing point, shouldering a concentrated burden within families. When the already inadequate scaffolding of social structures is removed, as it was during Covid-19, the pressure is too concentrated. Policies, social expectations and workplace culture reinforce these imbalances.

Inequality hiding in plain sight

There were stories of mothers juggling working from home with children's daily needs, balancing in-person work without child care and facing unemployment and financial peril. After each story, and among other questions, we asked if they thought any of this was related to their gender. Overwhelmingly, the women said, "No."

The unequal burden of the pandemic on women was evident in the new roles they were required to undertake, the stress associated with these roles and the psychological and emotional impact of these increased expectations.

However, the concentrated weight of this load was not recognised by those bearing it.

The participants in our study did not identify the stories they shared - of job loss, of being an in-home caregiver (daycare provider, food preparer, entertainer, social support) or of providing mental-health case management and support when everything, including in-school learning, closed - as being connected to the fact that they are women.

The responses revealed how deeply gendered expectations are internalised, framed as circumstance or coincidence rather than inequality.

For example, some of the women said they took on more of the household burden simply because they happened to be the ones who were home during the day, while others said they took on more because they were the ones working outside of the home during the day.

Even when the cost of this burden was clear, the fact that it was gendered remained hidden. Another said:

"I don't think I closed down the business because of being a woman. It was just a lot to handle. It was just draining on a day-to-day basis."

It was understood that if women are unable to bear the load, foundational social structures could fracture, as one mother observed:

"My mental health had the greatest impact on the mental health and emotional regulation of the entire household."

The cost of ignoring the burden

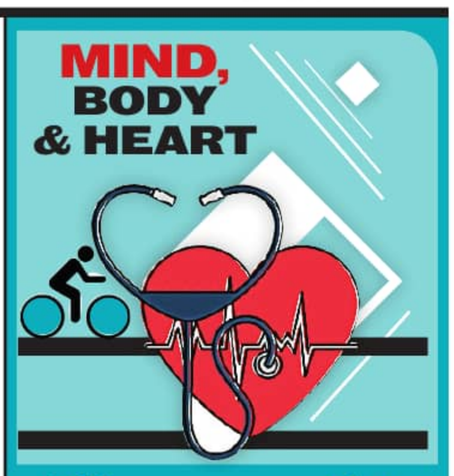
There are profound positives to motherhood, and conceding the need for equity and balance does not contradict them. Rather, acknowledging the disproportionate responsibilities related to household well-being, child care, education and financial equity validates women's struggle to keep up. It also challenges internalised dominant messages for all of us.

The mental health and educational impact of covid-19 on children, youth and families will be longstanding. The impact on parents, particularly mothers, will be ongoing.

Only once we truly acknowledge this disproportionate burden can we discuss how these expectations fail everyone, particularly during times of structural instability.

Until caregiving and emotional labour are recognised as shared social responsibilities, rather than private obligations borne disproportionately by women, crises like covid-19 will continue to deepen existing inequalities.

(By Jane E Sanders, Western University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Relationship anarchy

The concept and its origin

In 2006, Andie Nordgren, a Swedish writer and activist, introduced relationship anarchy in a pamphlet titled Relationship Anarchy In 8 Points. Originally written in Swedish as part of an activist art collective called Interacting Arts, the document challenges the idea that romantic partnerships should always be prioritised over every single one of the other kinds of relationships we form with others in our lives. It also posits that love is an unlimited source and that every connection formed with another person in this world (whether it is of a romantic, sexual, or platonic nature) should be defined by the parties involved, rather than as a result of inherited norms from society.

How it spread

The pamphlet has circulated for many years primarily through Swedish activist/queer groups, but in 2012, Nordgren translated it into English and posted it on her blog. The pamphlet spread rapidly through Tumblr. Although the philosophy of relationship anarchy is not completely new, there have been anarchist philosophers who questioned the economics and power dynamics of marriage since the 19th century. Nordgren's manifesto brought together disparate ideas into one coherent framework that many could use as a reference point from which to build on or develop new concepts.

Core tenets

The core tenets of relationship anarchy are simple, but profound: that love is unlimited and every relationship is unique; that trust should replace control; and that commitment is a conscious choice rather than a societal inheritance. Rather than serving as rules per se, they can be used as invitations to rethink rules altogether. —Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Airborne micro- and nanoplastics contribute to global warming at 16% of soot's impact: Study

Airborne micro- and nanoplastic particles may contribute to global warming at over 16 per cent of the impact of black carbon, or 'soot', with higher values observed above ocean garbage patches, according to a study.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, suggest that the plastic particles might previously have been unrecognised contributors to climate warming, but their role should be considered in future climate assessments, researchers said.

The team, including researchers from China's Fudan University and the US, examined the behaviour of individual micro- and nanoplastic particles and found that black and coloured particles strongly absorb sunlight compared to white particles.

The authors "show that coloured MNPs (microplastic and nanoplastic particles) exhibit strong light absorption, with a mean refractive index of 1.49–0.22i at 550 nm (nanometres) and absorption coefficients 74.8 times higher than those of pristine particles."

Microplastics and nanoplastics are formed when larger plastic waste fragments. They are sized between one nanometre (one billionth of a metre) to up to 500 micrometres (one millionth of a metre) in diameter. Studies have detected microplastics and nanoplastics in varied environments, including the human brain.

Previous studies have suggested that the contribution of airborne plastics to atmospheric warming is minimal, but such analyses often assumed that they were uncoloured, despite real-world plastics commonly containing pigments, the researchers said.

The study's findings indicate that airborne plastic particles, particularly coloured nanoplastics, contribute to atmospheric warming and may influence regional climate patterns, the researchers said. —PTI

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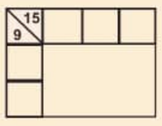
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

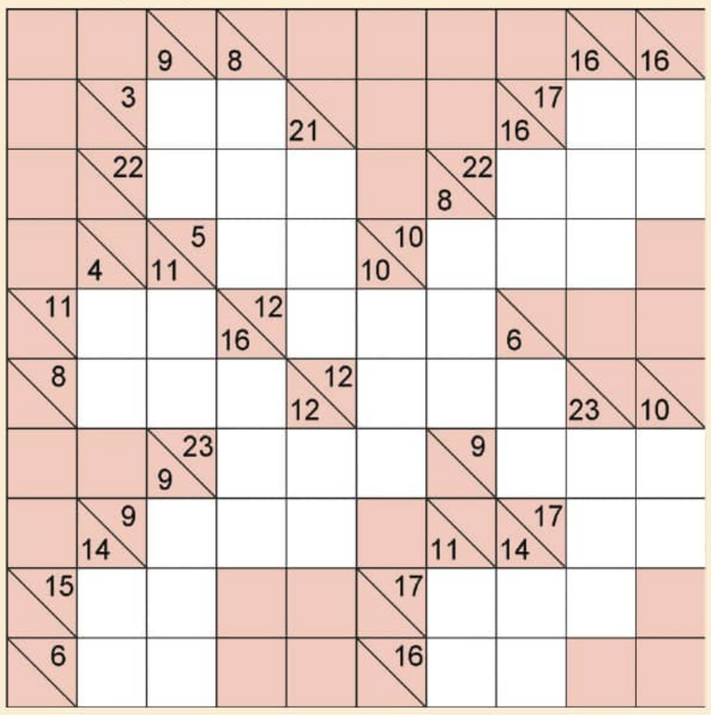
[((2^2)-9)÷((-10)-(-5)) x (-2) = ?

Kakuro

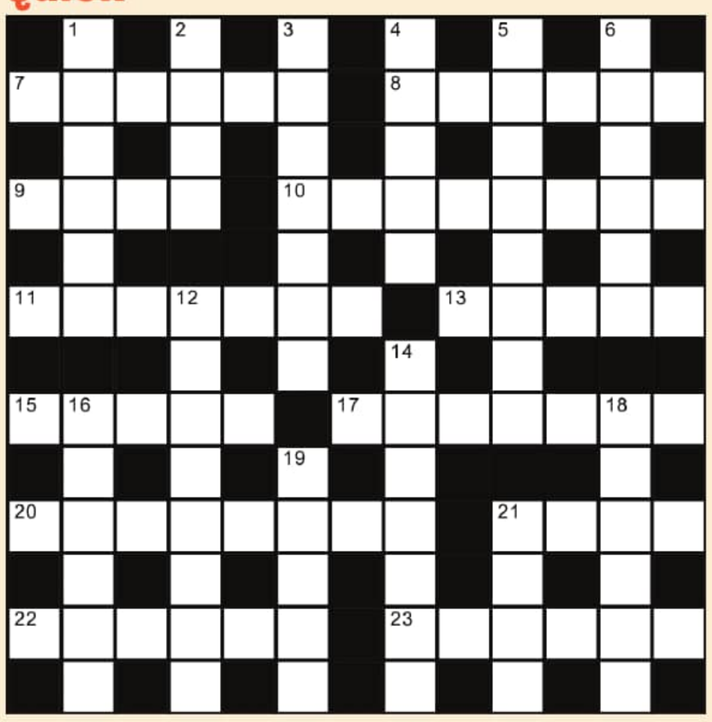
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 More than one (6)
8 Actually (6)
9 Be familiar with (4)
10 Discharging (8)
11 Short falls of rain (7)
13 Intrinsically–in Latin? (3,2)
15 Mature person (5)
17 Thick yellow fog or something to eat? (3-4)
20 Nullify, rescind or reverse (8)
21 Promises (4)
22 European country (6)
23 Most recent? (6)

DOWN

1 Turn white (6)
2 Make beer (4)
3 Musically brisk (7)
4 Characteristic (5)
5 Basic bedding (8)
6 Salivary, endocrine, pituitary, et al.? (6)
12 Rolled about in mud? (8)
14 Divulges or uncovers (7)
16 The elephants for the Mysore Dussehra were trained at this camp (6)
18 Ill-advised (6)
19 Light beer (5)
21 Wooden barrels (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T

YUYF JF XRY UDNNYS KA XRY QRDOKZ KA OYDXR, XZK DFO XZK OK FKX CDIY QJV.

Linemaro

Hey, no offence, but do you want to hold hands?

Mind chow

The books that the world calls immoral are the books that show the world its own shame

Joke of the day

We Americans live in a nation where the medical-care system is second to none in the world, unless you count maybe 25 or 30 little scuzzball countries like Scotland that we could vaporize in seconds if we felt like it

Loop

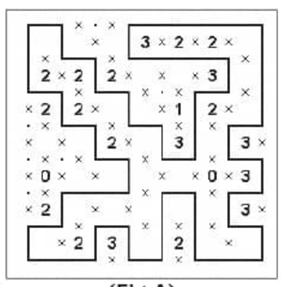
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

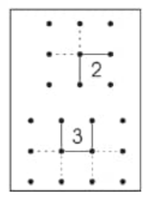
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

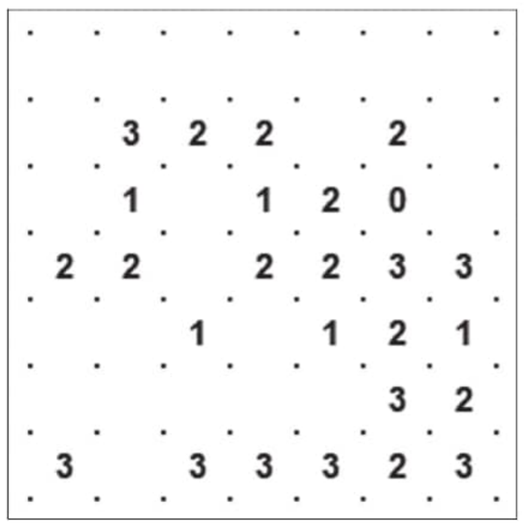
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



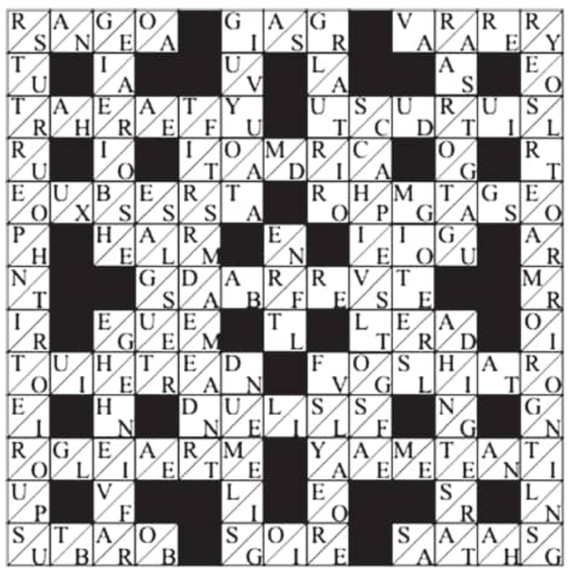
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



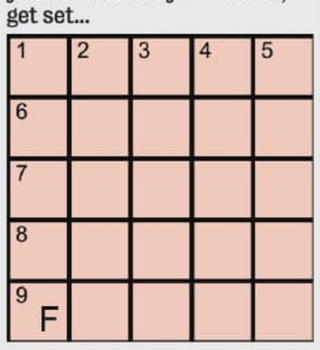
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Carol; 6 Hi tab;
7 Sabah; 8 Chief;
9 If Ark

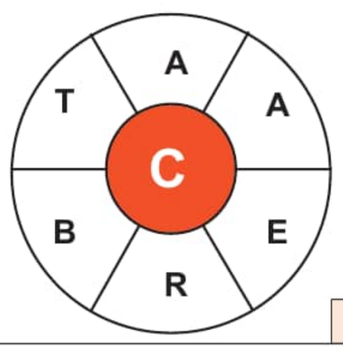
DOWN

1 Haf Cf; 2 Abila;
3 Back A; 4 Irish;
5 Throe

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the empty box with the correct letter.

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3			7				
8					9	7		
		1			5		3	8
							4	5
	6	8		3		9	1	
7	9							
2	8		7			1		
		9	8					4
				2			5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

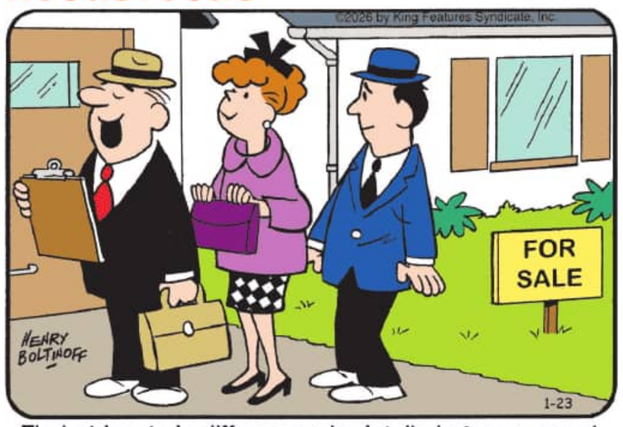
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
3 9 8 5

Medium = 22
3 8 9 2

Hard = 3
2 5 6 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

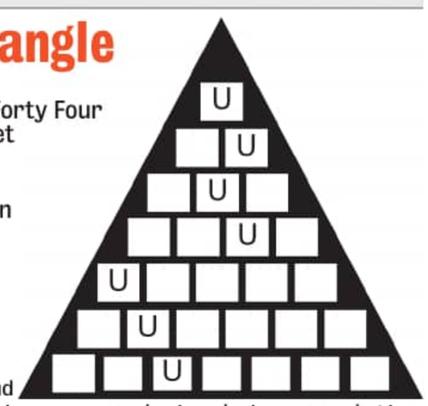
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Garage door handle is lower. 3. Skirt is different. 4. Top of downspout is different. 5. Clipboard is not as wide. 6. Man's arm is not showing.

Riddler

A man saw a snake crossing the road and swerved to crush it with his tires. All the street lights were off as well as the car's headlights. There were no other lights on along the road. How did the man see the snake?

Alpha triangle

1 Uranium symbol
2 Atomic number Forty Four
3 Strasbourg street
4 Authentic
5 Complete
6 Shelled amphibian
7 Litter

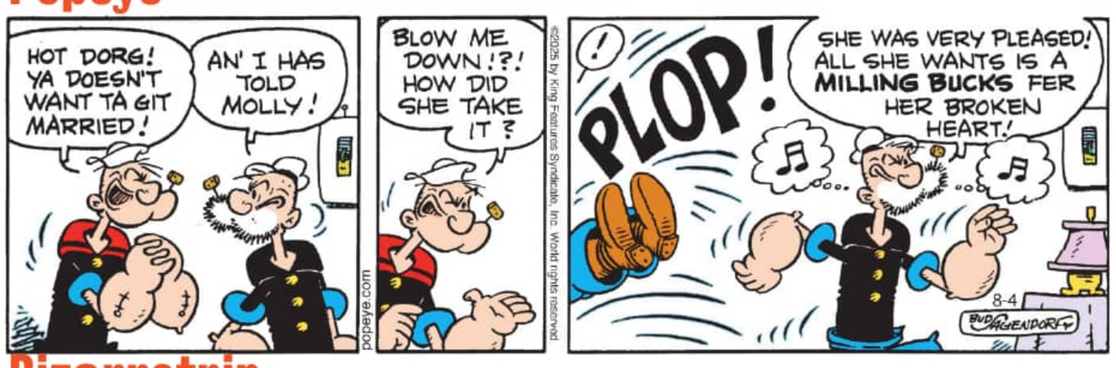


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


HOT DORG! YA DOESN'T WANT TA GIT MARRIED!
AN' I HAS TOLD MOLLY!
BLOW ME DOWN!?! HOW DID SHE TAKE IT?
PLOP!
SHE WAS VERY PLEASED! ALL SHE WANTS IS A MILLING BUCKS FER HER BROKEN HEART!
8-4
BUD SAGENDORF
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 1-23-26
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BIZARRO.COM
Have a good look, mate. I'm the future you.
GARY NUMAN MEETS GARY OLDMAN
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THE POPSICLE STICK STAGE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO HOLD FIVE TEAM MEMBERS.
READY?!
JUMP!
CRACK!
DID THE STAGE BREAK OR JUST ALL OF MY BONES?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

AS MR. SHERRY AND I TALKED THAT AFTERNOON...
"IT SEEMED THAT WE WEREN'T QUITE ON THE SAME PAGE... AND I WONDERED WHAT HE SAW IN MY WORK..."
'AND THEN AT ONE POINT I SAW HIM LOOKING AT SOME OF THE NEW STRIPS...'
1-23
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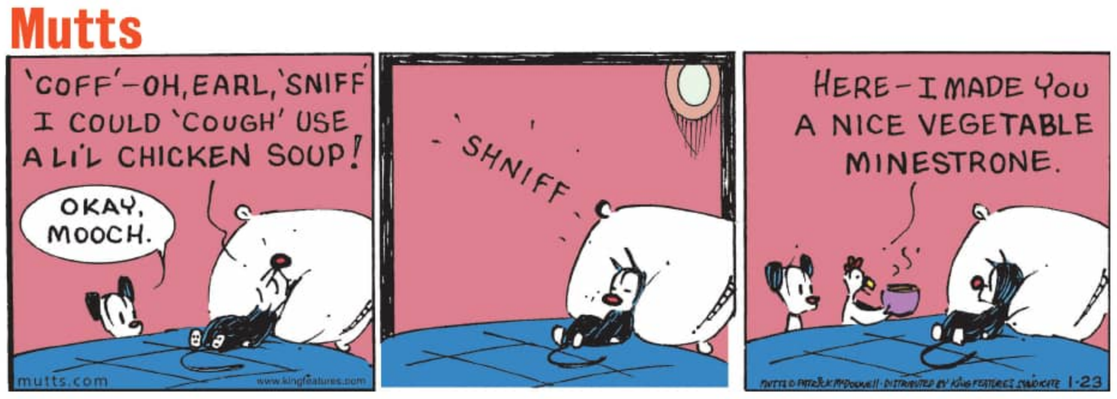
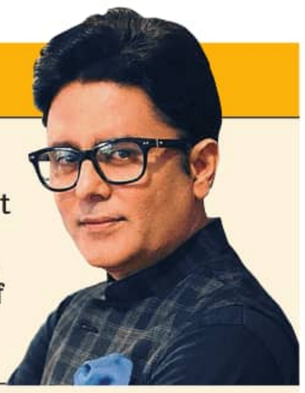
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Harmony and relationship growth are your primary focuses. This year is about finding balance between your needs and the needs of others. Romance could take a serious turn, leading to significant commitments. Artistic inspiration is high, but channel it into practical projects. Your home becomes a sanctuary of peace and beauty where you will host many meaningful social gatherings.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may form a meaningful connection today that feels destined or significant. Whether romantic or platonic, this bond carries importance and depth, opening possibilities for a relationship that influences your life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today feels uplifting and energetic, boosting your confidence and desire for fun. Socializing, playful moments, and enjoyable outings appeal strongly. Embrace opportunities for relaxation, entertainment, and connection with others around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Conversations with family, especially female relatives, feel harmonious today. You may also experience a meaningful bond with a friend or group member, creating a sense of closeness and emotional connection.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your communication skills shine today, making it ideal for expressing ideas clearly. Whether professionally or socially, you'll impress others, including authority figures, while confidently sharing your thoughts and engaging conversations.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Financial discussions and negotiations go smoothly today, bringing favourable outcomes. You may also feel drawn to someone unique, forming an important connection through shared interests, learning, or professional environments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
With strong positive energy supporting you, today is excellent for planning travel or exploring academic or legal matters. Financial conversations flow well, and romantic energy adds excitement and emotional warmth.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may prefer a quiet, reflective approach today, focusing on personal tasks. However, meaningful interactions with close partners or friends could reveal a significant connection that feels destined or deeply important.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Social interactions feel especially rewarding today, with friends and acquaintances offering support. Someone's help may have a lasting impact, reminding you that true generosity lies in giving what truly matters.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You're especially noticeable today, attracting attention from others, even regarding personal matters. Stay mindful of your image. At the same time, enjoy social activities, sports, playful moments, and exciting romantic energy.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
This is a joyful day for socializing, connecting with loved ones, and enjoying leisure activities. Hosting at home may deepen family bonds, bringing meaningful interactions and reinforcing your strong sense of connection.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel a meaningful connection with someone in your daily environment, such as a relative or neighbour. Support for family or home-related matters flows easily, bringing reassurance and positive outcomes.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today encourages cooperation and mutual understanding in your interactions. Conversations feel warm and supportive, and someone may offer meaningful financial help, leaving you feeling deeply appreciative and unlikely to forget their kindness.

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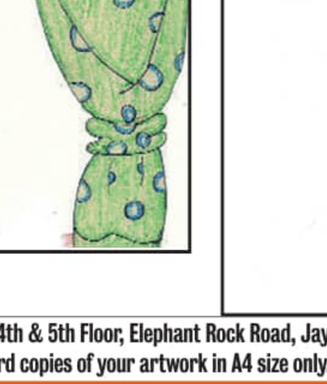
SOLUTIONS

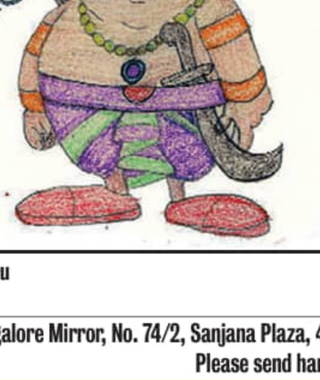
SOLVE IN 1M
[(4-9)÷(-10+5) x (-2)=
[(-5) / (-5) x (-2)]=
[-5 / -5 x (-2)]=
[1 x (-2)]=
1 x -2=
-2

BULL'S EYE
acre, brace, CABARET, carat, care, cart, cater, crab, crate, race, react, trace

STRIKE OUT



QUICK



MENSA PUZZLE
Even in the valley of the shadow of death, two and two do not make six.

QUOTE UNCODE
F. In columns, the central number equals the sum of the numerical value of the top and bottom letters.

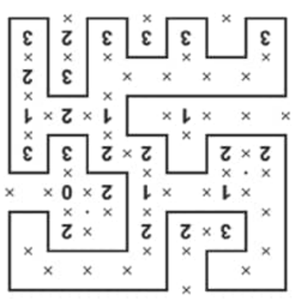
SUDOKU

4	3	2	1	7	8	5	9	6
8	5	6	3	4	9	7	2	1
9	7	1	2	6	5	4	3	8
1	2	3	9	8	7	6	4	5
5	6	8	4	3	2	9	1	7
7	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	2
2	8	5	7	9	4	1	6	3
6	1	9	8	5	3	2	7	4
3	4	7	6	2	1	8	5	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Ru, Rue, True, Utter, Turtle, Gluttter.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 - 9 + 3 = 7
Medium
2 + 3 + 8 + 9 = 22
Hard
2 x 7 - 5 - 6 = 3

LOOP



KAKURO

FAST FIVE

RIDDLER
It was during the daytime.

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 # Legal safeguard
After Abhishek and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Kumar Sanu, Kartik Aaryan, Salman Khan, court protects Arjun Kapoor's personality rights

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Little minds, big ideas

Many tend to underestimate children's abilities for reasons of their own. Director Prakash Chinnappa, however, challenges this view. His film Chikkavaru Konaralla stands as a rebuttal to those who dismiss children as incapable.

"The movie Chikkavaru Konaralla challenges the people who underestimate children and it focuses on children's intelligence and curiosity," said director Chinnappa.

The movie is supported under the HUE Arts Studios banner. Chinnappa, apart from handling the megaphone, wrote the script, screenplay, and also supported the movie in association with Netrababu, Shwetha, Jameel, Nazia Khazi and Satish.

The team hosted a trailer launch event at Renukamba Preview Theatre on Saturday. Veteran actors Sunder Raj, Ramesh Bhat, and actress Anita Bhat graced the occasion.

"We are planning to release the movie at theatres shortly," the director said.

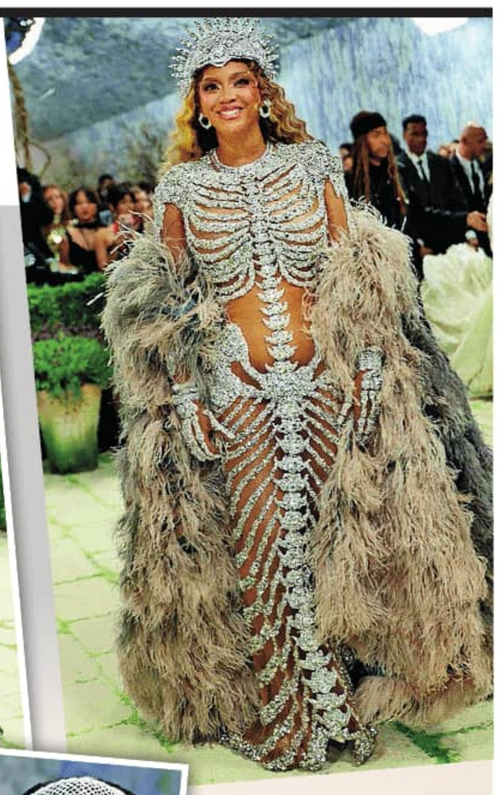
Buzzing beat

The lyrical track from the upcoming Kannada romantic film Love Seasons has been unveiled. Directed by Kruthvik, the movie has already generated buzz among audiences, particularly the youth, with its blend of romance and sentiment. The teaser released last month has further heightened anticipation.

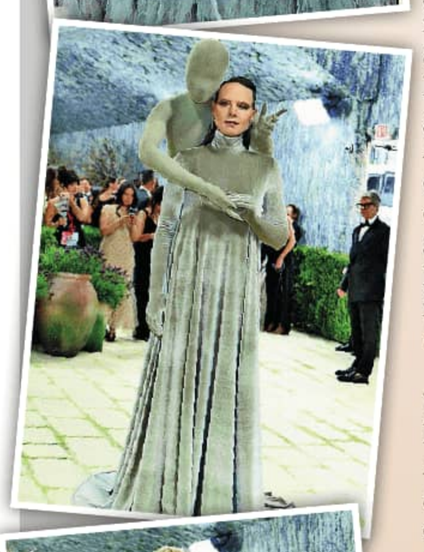
With the launch of the song Nagu Mugivaa Modale Hosa Khushiya Kodive, the team has officially kicked off promotional activities. The lyrics were penned by Kantara fame Pramod Maravanthe, with music composed by Veer Samarth. Vocals are by Pragna Marate, known from Saregamapa Season 10, alongside popular singer Armaan Malik.

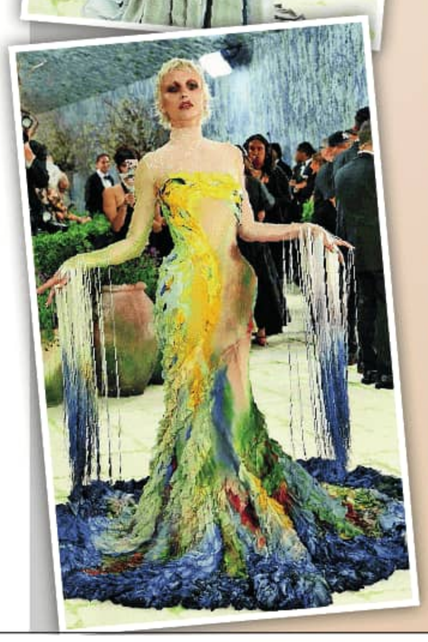
The movie is produced under the SR Studios banner by NR Manjunath (Neeleri). Mukunda Ramaswamy played the protagonist while Diya Keerthi, Chandana Gowda, and Swetha Kogloru are paired opposite him. Versatile actor Rajesh Nataranga played the father of the hero. The movie also features Mandya Ramesh, Sangeetha Anil, Jayatheertha, Chetan Durga, Comedy Kiladi Sadananda, Huli Karthi and Baby Ritu Singh.

All over the place



Stars take artistic liberties with Met Gala theme this year





Met Gala guests from Beyoncé to Naomi Osaka to Emma Chamberlain did not play it safe this year for the Met Gala, delivering custom works of art in honor of the dress code "Fashion is art."

Beyoncé left the cowboy hat at home and dazzled in a custom Olivier Rousteing sculptural skeleton dress with a cream and dust blue feathered train fitted with a diamond crown for "Queen Bey." The Grammy winner and husband Jay-Z and daughter Blue Ivy, stopped to pose as a unit on the carpet together.

Stars also celebrated the dress code with their accessories. Actor and fashion muse Gwendoline Christie playfully covered her face on the carpet with a mask of her own face while pop star Katy Perry opened and closed her fencing-like mask on the carpet to smile at the cameras.

Venus Williams was not the only guest to break the fourth wall with an artistic reference to herself. It was a trend of the night with gala host committee members Amy Sherald in Thom Browne donning a look inspired by her own work of art and pop star Sabrina Carpenter wearing a Dior dress designed with film strips from the 1954 movie "Sabrina."

While her "Devil Wears Prada 2" cast mates kept it classic in black, Anne Hathaway made a statement in her custom Michael Kors Grecian-inspired strapless dress.

And Janelle Monáe knows how to deliver drama on a red carpet. The performer delivered a message with her sculptural art piece that featured cords overtaken by moss wrapped around her form.

"Remember what made you human," Monáe told The Associated Press. "Nature is talking to us."

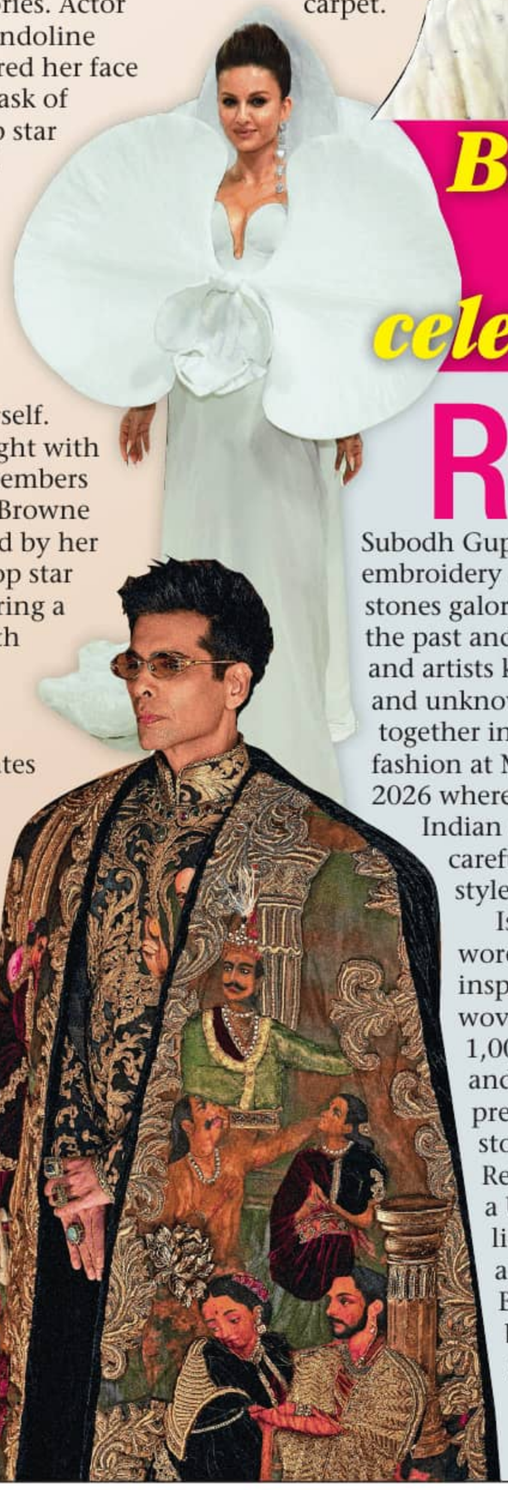
Rather than wear art, models showed off their toned bodies as part of "Costume Art" exhibit's theme celebrating artistic representations of the body. Supermodels Gigi Hadid and Irina Shayk both wore revealing looks on the carpet.

Supermodel Heidi Klum, known for taking her Halloween costume to new heights, brought that same dedication to the Met Gala as she arrived as a draped statue.

In typical fashion, singer and fashion powerhouse Rihanna shut down the carpet as the final guest to arrive much earlier than in year's past. Dressed in a metallic cocoon-like dress, Rihanna emerged onto the carpet with her partner A$AP Rocky.

"I feel like a pearl out of an oyster," Rihanna said to reporters. —AP

Best of Indian art, craft in play as celebs make a splash



Raja Ravi Varma, Ajanta cave paintings, Subodh Gupta, intricate embroidery and gemstones galore... art from the past and present and artists known and unknown came together in spectacular fashion at Met Gala 2026 where a band of Indian celebs made carefully curated style statements.

Isha Ambani wore a sari inspired outfit woven with 1,000 diamonds and 800 other precious stones, Sudha Reddy sported a USD 15 million necklace and Ananya Birla hid behind a glittering steel mask by Gupta.

Filmmaker Karan Johar was in a resplendent cape replicating Varma's most famous paintings, philanthropist and entrepreneur Natasha Poonawala in an elaborate orchid inspired gown, Gauravi Kumari and Sawai Padmanabh Singh, members of Jaipur's erstwhile royal family, dressed in chiffon and velvet, and designer Manish Malhotra in a bandhgala with an ornate black and white cape.

Johar, who made his Met Gala debut, roped in longtime friend and designer Malhotra to create his bespoke outfit, called Framed in Eternity.

"It's amazing to represent your nation, your culture and heritage on a global platform as magnificent as the Met, which truly signifies the work of art. Today's theme really beautifully blends fashion and art, and I couldn't have chosen a better debut on a theme like this," Johar told reporters.

Hyderabad-based businesswoman and philanthropist Reddy arrived in a regal navy blue velvet lehenga by Malhotra. The outfit featured intricate gold zardozi embroidery on the bodice. —PTI